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## BRIEF NOTE

A NEW STATE RECORD: *SETARIA YEHI* (FILARIA) FOUND IN *ODOCOILEUS VIRGINIANUS*<sup>1</sup>

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The filarial nematode *Setaria yehi* (*Artionema tundra*, Yeh 1959) was found in the abdominal cavity of 7 deer legally taken by hunters in northwestern Ohio during the hunting seasons of 1980 and 1981. These deer were of both sexes, with ages (estimated from teeth) ranging from 2 to 5 years. All animals appeared healthy and displayed considerable body fat as is typical for normal deer in this region of mixed farmland and woodlots. *Setaria yehi* was not found in deer examined prior to 1979.

The worms were located on the great omentum and peritoneum membranes, where they were noted to be moving about in the body cavity of freshly killed deer. *Setaria yehi* has been found in whitetail deer in Alabama, Georgia, Maryland, New Jersey, Texas and Wisconsin (Walker and Becklund 1970). *Setaria* sp. has been reported in Michigan (Whitlock 1939), Ontario (Shoho 1958, Anderson 1962) and

in central Pennsylvania (Samuel and Beaudoin 1966). However, we examined 14 legally killed deer in the western Pennsylvania region in the last 4 years without finding *Setaria* genus. The locality of deer exhibiting the parasite in the present case was Lucas, Wood and Ottawa counties. Deer were extremely rare or non-existent in this area from 1920 through 1940. Subsequently, farming practices have changed and whitetail deer have returned to the region. The closest population from whence deer might move into this locality is southern Michigan.

We suggest that the new state record of *Setaria yehi*, following the dispersal of deer into the region, is a confirmation for the "Fringe Population" concept of Chiang (1961). *S. yehi* is a non-insect species, while Chiang (1961) focused on insect population dynamics. However, *S. yehi* has an insect vector and so would be expected to confirm to the advancing fringe dispersal model of Chiang. Our findings support these views of population dispersal, and are a new state record for a significant deer parasite.

<sup>1</sup>Manuscript received 23 March 1982 and in revised form 9 April 1982 (#82-6).

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